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SIPDIS, SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDED CAPTION)

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TAGS: [IR](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: IRPO & NEA/IR ELECTION SPOT REPORT JULY 2

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Note: This will be our final daily spot report on the post-election crisis unless circumstances change dramatically.

5:30 PM in Iran:

(U) Iran's Police Chief Claims Neda,s Murder was Premeditated Scenario to Defame Iran
(U) Press TV reports that Brigadier General Esma'il Ahmadi-Moqaddam, Iran,s police chief, has announced that Neda,s murder was a premeditated plot by forces trying to frame Iran. Ahmadi-Moqaddam claimed that Arash Hejazi, the Iranian physician who tried to treat Neda, is wanted by the Ministry of Intelligence and Interpol for murder. According to Tabnak, Ahmadi-Moqaddam admitted that 20 people have been killed in the past two weeks, and over one thousand have been arrested.

(U) SMS Service Restored in Iran after Three Week Outage (SBU) According to Tabnak, SMS service is now available throughout the country for the first time since June 11. Other reports confirm that SMS text messaging is now working in Iran, although some Iranians are still unable to text internationally.

(U) FM Mottaki Urges Sweden to Prosecute Iran Embassy Attackers

(U) IRINN reports that in a phone conversation with Swedish FM Bilt, FM Mottaki criticized the Swedish police for failing to prevent the attack on Iran,s embassy in Stockholm. Bilt promised Mottaki that the police are investigating the incident. Mottaki urged Bilt to change the EU,s policy on Iran now that Sweden holds the EU Presidency.

(U) Increasing Calls for Mousavi,s Prosecution

(U) According to Radio Farda, a number of MP,s have demanded that Iran,s attorney general arrest and prosecute Mousavi. The Basijis, student branch has also sent a letter to the attorney general asking that Mousavi be tried for &endangering national security.⁸

(U) Iran to Support Families of those Killed in Recent Unrest

(U) Press TV reports that Iran,s Martyrs Foundation has announced that it will offer support to the families of those killed during the post-election violence.

(U) Iran denies Hanging Mousavi Supporters in Mashhad

(U) According to ILNA, the judiciary chief of Mashhad has rejected rumors that six individuals were recently hanged for protesting the election results. &If we succeed to find out the source of this rumor we will officially file a case against him,⁸ the judiciary chief told reporters.

(U) 19 Detained Members of Jebheye Mosharekat Identified

(U) Norooz News has identified on its website at least 19 members of the Reformer organization Jebheye Mosharekat who are currently imprisoned.

(U) Reports that Imprisoned Etemad-e Melli Editor Has Confessed to Orchestrating Coup

(U) Javan has claimed that Mohammed Ghochani, Chief Editor of Etemad-e Melli, has confessed to plotting to overthrow the government. According to the report, Ghochani admitted to traveling to Arab countries to receive instructions. However, Tabnak interviewed Ghochani's family yesterday, who denied the report and said that Ghochani does not even have a passport to travel.

(U) Reports that Four Sealed Ballot Boxes Were Discovered in Shiraz

(U) According to Norooz News and a number of Twitter posts, the governor of Fars accidentally discovered four sealed ballot boxes in Shiraz's old library during a live televised visit to the site. The governor claimed that the ballot boxes were from a previous election, not the June 12 presidential election.

(U) Calls for July 9th Demonstrations to Commemorate 1997 Student Protests

(U) Iranian students have used social networking sites and blogs to call for commemoration ceremonies in several squares in Tehran on July 9th to honor the martyrs killed at Tehran University in the July 1997 student riots.

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(U) July 4th Protests Planned in France

(U) Radio Farda reports that Iranian journalists abroad plan to gather in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on July 4th to demand that the EU not recognize Ahmadinejad's government.

(U) Mohsen Sazegara Calls for Strike Next Week

(U) Sazegara, a founder of the Revolutionary Guard and U.S.-based dissident, has called for a strike in Tehran July 6th. He has also encouraged Iranians to hold brief, 5 minute rallies in Tehran's metro stops before security forces are able to break them up. (<http://www.sazegara.net/persian/>)

(U) Unconfirmed Rumors of Lebanese Hizballah Attacking Protesters

(U) There are continued unconfirmed reports of Iranian security forces using Arabs, reportedly members of Lebanese Hizballah, to crack down on demonstrators. Ali Reza Nourizadeh of VOA has claimed that the Arabs are shipped into Tehran from training camps outside the city.

(U) Selected Editorials from Today's Iranian Papers (OSC IAP2009070295002):

Jomhuri-ye Eslami (hard-liner): &Following the remarks of the spokesman of the Guardian Council confirming the result of the election, there is no room for more questions and ambiguity and the Judiciary should seriously deal with question makers.⁸

Javan (conservative): &Crisis and clashes that have taken place in the country since the tenth presidential elections were predetermined and planned by America and its alliances like Britain, several months before the elections. The aim was to carry out a soft revolution in the Islamic Republic.⁸

Hemayat (conservative): &America's psychological-propaganda organizations which have been expanding daily, have always acted as one of this country's main arms in war and peace...Hollywood holds a significant status and it is under the rule of international Zionism⁸

Resalat (conservative): &American intrusion in Iran's domestic affairs, and particularly the hostile remarks of Barack Obama regarding the presidential election in Iran, prove that Americans are still thinking about toppling the system in the country and there is no difference in strategies of the Republicans or the Democrats as far as Iran is concerned.⁸

Siyasat-e Ruz (conservative): &What is being pursued by the West, to return its dominance over regions of the world such as Iran, some Arab countries and even Latin American countries, is a creation of colored revolutions.⁸

Mardom Salari (moderate): &Bani Sadr was a person who cut off from people and stood against the goals of the Revolution which were accepted by the people. Mr. Mousavi is not like him and there is no similarity between him and Bani Sadr and the analogy is rather a joke.⁸

2:30 AM in Iran:

(U) Bonyad to Compensate Families of Victims,: Fars News reports that Iran's Martyrs Foundation (Bonyad Shahid va Isaargaraan) will compensate &families of the innocent victims of Tehran's post-election riots.⁸ The U.S. Treasury Department designated the group a sponsor of terrorist activities in July 2007, saying that the foundation channels financial support from Iran to several terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Iran's Martyrs Foundation reportedly supports families of those martyred or maimed in the Iraq-Iran war. Bonyads are controversial charitable trusts/foundations that dominate Iran's non-petroleum economy, controlling an estimated 30% of Iran's GDP. Several bonyads are run by Khamenei loyalists and funded directly by the state. As such, they are often exempt from official oversight, taxes and customs) thereby facilitating virtual monopolies in import and distribution activities inside Iran.

(U) Rafsanjani Will Not Lead Friday Prayers: Mowj News has confirmed that Hashemi Rafsanjani will not lead tomorrow's Friday Prayers. According to Mowj News, Rafsanjani has &declined⁸ to lead Friday prayers for a second time. No official reason has been announced on why

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Rafsanjani has not been present for his last two turns. &The rumors regarding resignation from his position as a temporary Imam have not been confirmed.⁸

(U) Report: Four Sealed Ballot Boxes Found in Shiraz Library: Mohammad Reza Nasab Abdollahi, an Iranian Journalist in Shiraz, said yesterday on his blog that four ballot boxes were discovered in Shiraz Central Library) a building he says is still under construction. &The Governor of Fars (province) asked the journalists not to mention this discovery(According to election laws, the boxes should have been sent to Tehran. Today, Abdollahi reported that he was put under pressure to remove this news from his blog and deny it. Iranian authorities have announced that these ballots &have nothing to do with the 10th presidential elections(and will not be moved to the National Library and Archives of Iran as national files.⁸ This report is still UNCONFIRMED.

(U) Report: Mobile Phone Shut Down Costs Iran \$15 Million: Press TV reports that Iran's telecommunication companies lost \$15 million during the 20-day suspension of the services, which had been widely used by protesters to organize street rallies following the election.

(U) Iranian MP Condemns Violence, Rule By One Voice, in Majles Address: MP from Tabriz, Masoud Pezeshkian, speaks out against government actions in an address to the Majles

on Monday (Video subtitled in English) click on &arrow8 button in lower right-hand corner of the screen, then click on &cc8 button).

(U) IRGC Commander: Non-Military Basij Can Enter Political Discussions,: According to IRNA, on sidelines of a Basij Forces Cooperation conference, Brigadier-General Ali Jafari said &Basij forces differs from the military forces; we should not count basij forces as military forces, so they can enter political discussion and have an active role in that field. Jafari referred to the Supreme Leader,s notification on separating the military basij forces and non-military basij forces, with the aim of expanding basij activities in different fields. &The corps has planned an expanded program in scientific, cultural, political and social fields. The most significant point is to develop the soft power in the military. It is no linked to military activities and the major responsibility of the basij concerns non-military issues.8

(U) Report: Two More News Websites Blocked in Iran: Tabnak reports that Parliament News and Ebrat News websites have both been blocked without advance warning. According to Tabnak, Parliament News was one of the few news websites which had not been blocked after the election, and it &tried to observe the law and regulations regarding reformists and pro-reform individuals.8 Consultations to end the filtering have started among Majles MPs.

(U) Report: Washington Times Reporter To Be Released,: The Guardian reports that Iason Athanasiadis) a Washington Times reporter detained for more than a week by Iranian authorities) is to be released within hours. Athanasiadis was arrested as he was attempting to leave the country last Tuesday, June 23. According to a Greek politician, Iran,s ambassador in Athens told Greek official on Thursday that the journalist would be freed "in the next few hours.8

(U) Report: Crisis Response Hints At Early Stages Of Iranian Power Struggle,: &Over the past month, Iran has experienced some of its worst unrest since the founding of the Islamic Republic three decades ago. The focus has been on who should be the next president. But in the not too distant future, many observers are convinced that Iran's political establishment will face a far greater crisis that revolves around who will succeed ailing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.8

(U) Iran Unrest Shifts Power Dynamics, Reformists Must Rethink Strategy: &But the recent protests attracted hundreds of thousands into Iran's streets, resulting in at least 17 deaths and many more injuries. The hard-liners have tightened their grip, leaving the reformists to decide whether they should keep playing the old game or whether the rules have changed so much that the game no longer exists.8

(U) Report: Controversy Over Ballots Used in Guardian Council Recount: There is growing commentary and criticism of photographs released by Iranian authorities of ballots included in the Guardian Council,s recount on

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Monday. Roozonline, and opposition candidate Mohsen Rezai, highlight two points: 1) The name &Ahmadinejad8 appears to have been written on many of the ballots in exactly the same handwriting; 2) The ballots don,t appear to have been folded. Photographs from Election Day seem to bear out that Iranian voters * and candidates * had to fold their ballots to fit them into ballot boxes.

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